

We in Congress continue to pray for all affected by the horrible events of three years ago and will continue to be vigilant on the war on terror. May God bless all the families and their loved ones, and may God bless America.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SERVICE OF ANN JEMISON

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Representative JOHN CONYERS and myself, I wish to extend our thanks and gratitude to Ann Jemison, who is retiring this week after almost 30 years of service to the House of Representatives. We also wish to extend our very best wishes to Ann, on her upcoming wedding on September 25, 2004.

Ann hails from the Land of Lincoln and began her career on the Hill as an Assistant Manager and then Manager in the House Restaurant System from 1975 through 1994. She moved into the position of Staff Assistant/Receptionist, first, for the Committee on Public Works and Transportation in 1994, and then with the Committee on the Judiciary Committee in 1995.

Ann is the first smiling face you see when you enter the Committee's front door and the friendly and knowledgeable voice you hear when you call our office.

Mr. Speaker, Ann has served the House Judiciary Committee, the Congress and the American people over all these years with commitment, dedication and integrity. We thank her and want her to know that she will be missed.

JOBS ACTION TEAM'S
COMPETITIVENESS AGENDA

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, the focus of the Jobs Action Team's "Competitiveness Agenda" this week is ending lawsuit abuse, and with good reason. The United States is the lawsuit capital of the world, and this puts American companies at a competitive disadvantage.

Frivolous lawsuits are costing American businesses \$129 billion each year. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce found the greatest impact is on small businesses—which contribute three-fourths of all new jobs, which face additional costs of \$17,000 each year. This is unacceptable.

The House of Representatives has responded by passing numerous legal reform bills. H.R. 4571, introduced by Representative LAMAR SMITH, passed the House yesterday. This bill provides for appropriate sanctions against those who file junk lawsuits. The Senate must act now.

Americans should not have to fear life-ruining lawsuits. This should not be a country where individuals can file cases to get money wherever they can—many with no intention of going to court. Let's end lawsuit abuse now.

LIABILITY COSTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS

FAST FACTS

"America's small businesses are the driving force behind our economic achievements, and the U.S. Chamber is proud to support and represent this country's small business owners."—Thomas J. Donohue, president and CEO, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

The total annual cost of the tort system to U.S. businesses (large and small) is \$129 billion.

Small businesses with \$10 million or less in annual revenue bear 68 percent of that cost, paying \$88 billion a year.

Very small businesses (\$1 million or less in annual revenue) bear 26 percent of the business cost, paying \$33 billion a year.

A small business with \$10 million annual revenue pays about \$150,000 a year in tort liability costs—money that could be used to hire additional employees.

A small business with \$1 million annual revenue pays about \$17,000 a year in tort liability costs—money that could be used to expand or improve health benefits for employees.

Very small businesses (\$1 million or less in annual revenue) pay 44 percent of their tort liability costs (\$15 billion) out-of-pocket, as opposed to through insurance.

There are over 4.5 million U.S. small businesses with \$10 million or less in annual revenue.

There are about 3.8 million U.S. small businesses with \$1 million or less in annual revenue.

Small businesses contribute approximately three-quarters of all new jobs added to the economy.

The Liability Costs for Small Business study was conducted for the U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform by NERA Economic Consulting.

HONORING THE NATIONAL
GUARD'S SERVICE IN WINNING
THE WAR ON TERROR

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President George W. Bush praised the valor of guardsmen and reservists fighting to win the War on Terror. President Bush is the 19th former guardsman to be president and he rightly pointed out that the National Guard is America's oldest fighting force. The Guard has played a vital role in all of our major conflicts, and especially in recent decades fighting in Vietnam, the Gulf War, and the War on Terror.

The Guard is also called on in times of national emergency to provide invaluable support to local authorities. After the attacks of September 11th, thousands of Guardsmen across the country voluntarily stepped forward to help. When hurricanes strike our shores, it is the Guard that provides necessary communications and rescue services.

As a proud 31-year veteran of the South Carolina Army National Guard, with two sons in the Guard one of whom is serving in Iraq, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking all of the men and women serving in the Guard and Reserves today for protecting American families in the War on Terror.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th.

IN HONOR OF MISS IDAHO 2004

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 2004 Miss Idaho, Elizabeth Margaret Barchas of Boise. Elizabeth will be proudly representing the Gem State in this weekend's Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, NJ.

Elizabeth received her bachelor's degree from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She then studied abroad and received her master's degree from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and was a Fulbright Scholar. She has been accepted to Harvard Law school; however, she has deferred her matriculation for one year to pursue her duties as Miss Idaho. Elizabeth's platform is understanding individuals with disabilities, and I am very proud of her continued commitment of community service for Idaho and across the globe.

I am confident that Elizabeth will do an outstanding job in representing Idaho, as I am pulling for her to be crowned the next Miss America. I wish Elizabeth, and the entire Barchas family all the best for this weekend's pageant.

INTRODUCTION OF H.J. RES. 104

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I have just introduced the House counterpart to Senator HATCH's constitutional amendment (S.J. Res. 15) allowing those who have been citizens of the United States for at least 20 years to serve as President and Vice President.

We all agree that constitutional amendments should not be taken lightly and should only be considered when the betterment of this country is in question. It is my strong belief that "betterment" is what would be achieved if such an amendment is adopted.

The reasons the founding fathers added this clause to the constitution are archaic at best. The main rationale was to protect the U.S. from undue foreign influence from the election of a foreign leader in the executive office. This mindset prevailed not long after the founders freed the country from the control of a foreign body. Interestingly, however, in what is called "the Hamilton loophole," they exempted their own generation from the burdens of the "natural born" requirement. Seven of the 39 signers of the Constitution in Philadelphia in 1787 were foreign born, as well as 8 of America's original 81 Senators and Representatives, 3 of our first 10 Supreme Court justices, 4 of our first 6 secretaries of the treasury, and one of our first 3 secretaries of war. Most, if not all, of these immigrants were eligible to serve as president, since the constitution exempted all those who were citizens at the time the constitution was adopted from the "natural born" requirement.

Today, the offices of President and Vice President are the only offices where a person who is not U.S. born is disqualified from serving. Is this still appropriate when we have